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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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NEWS SHOTs

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From farms to classrooms, AI powers K'taka's growth

AI labs across state's ITIs are nurturing innovation, enabling students, and startups to create scalable grassroots solutions in agriculture, governance, inclusive education

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

AI-driven soil testing tools provide chemical-free, rapid, and reliable analysis to boost agricultural productivity

IN FOCUS
AI INNOVATION

Platforms being designed to diagnose learning disabilities using advanced tools, game-based models for early identification of conditions like dyslexia, autism

Karnataka is emerging as a hub for AI-driven agricultural innovations aimed at empowering smallholder farmers. New-age solutions include multilingual, multimodal AI assistants that provide personalised advisory services, enabling farmers to access real-time knowledge in local languages. Advances in soil health are also taking center stage, with rapid, chemical-free soil testing using spectroscopy and AI models, ensuring faster and more reliable analysis, according to data shared in the Lok Sabha recently.

In parallel, solutions are being explored to generate carbon credits through advanced measurement and verification tools, supporting sustainable farming practices. In the fisheries sector, AI-driven devices are being deployed to monitor water quality, reduce mortality, and transform aquaculture practices with real-time insights. Similarly, digital quality-assessment technologies are enabling traceability and transparency in produce, from maize to fresh fruits, benefiting both farmers and consumers.

Governance focus

Lok Sabha data said that Karnataka is also seeing AI-powered solutions reshape governance and citizen services. Conversational platforms are being developed to provide multilingual, personalised support across chat, voice, and social media, enhancing public access to government services. AI-based technologies like speech recognition and natural language processing are improving communication in India's linguistically diverse environment.

In the judicial sector, AI-driven transcription tools are being tested to automate court processes, a step that could significantly reduce judicial delays. Governance frameworks integrating advanced technologies are also being designed to streamline citizen consultation, feedback, and policymaking.

Assistive learning

AI applications are also opening new possibilities in education, especially in supporting children with specific learning disabilities (SLDs). Platforms are being designed to diagnose SLDs using advanced tools and interactive game-based models, enabling early identification of conditions like dyslexia and autism.

Other initiatives include web-based training for children with dyslexia to improve phonetic awareness and interactive accessibility tools to assist those with speech impairments through adaptive voice cloning. AI-driven systems are further being tested to address the shortage of special educators, ensuring inclusive education for children with special needs, the LS data said.

State leadership

Strengthening these innovations is the establishment of IndiaAI Data & AI Labs across Karnataka's government-run Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). Spread across districts including Ramanagar, Kolar, Maddur, Mangalore, Sira, and Pavagada, these labs aim to create a robust ecosystem where students, researchers, and innovators can collaborate to build AI-driven solutions for agriculture, governance, and education, the LS data added.

"By championing such initiatives, Karnataka is positioning itself as a leader in leveraging AI not just for industry but also for addressing grassroots challenges—bridging gaps between technology and society," an expert said.

INBRIEF

Zoo Club 2025 opens student registrations

Bannerughatta Biological Park (BBP) is set to host Zoo Club 2025, an engaging program aimed at inspiring young minds to connect with nature, wildlife, and conservation. The 15-week program will be conducted every Sunday, starting from October 12, 2025, for students aged 10 to 18 years. Sessions run from 10 am to 1 pm, with a maximum of 60 students per batch, and include both theory classes and field visits.
Participants will explore topics such as captive management, in situ and ex situ conservation, animal care, behavior, and welfare. The program also offers opportunities to interact with wildlife experts and gain insights into potential careers in nature and conservation.
Interested candidates can register via the application form on the BBP website https://bannerughatta-biopark.org/education.html. The registration fee is Rs 1,000, which will be waived for children from government schools. The registration deadline is October 4, 2025, and forms will close once 60 students enroll.

15-year-old leopard dies at BBP

Bannerughatta Biological Park (BBP) reported the death of a 15-year-old leopard, Arjun, on the late evening of September 18 (Thursday) at the park's Rescue Centre. Born on June 4, 2010, to Niranjan and Saraswati, Arjun's postmortem report cited pyothorax and septicemia as causes of death. Visceral samples have been collected and sent to the Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals (IAH&VB) for further examination.

INBRIEF

Cab driver assaulted over damaged vehicle

A 32-year-old cab driver was brutally assaulted near Baiyappanahalli railway station on September 17 after questioning a group of youths for damaging his parked vehicle.
The victim, Mounesh, a resident of Chikka Hulluru Gate in Hoskote, had parked his cab near the station and was resting inside when the group, allegedly intoxicated, approached his vehicle. They spat on the car and broke the glass, prompting Mounesh to ask why they were causing damage.
Enraged, the miscreants forced him to roll down the window, pulled him out, and began punching and verbally abusing him. They reportedly hurled abuses in Tamil while continuing the assault and also snatched his mobile phone.
Passersby intervened and rushed the injured cab driver to a hospital for treatment. The Banaswadi police have registered a case and are reviewing CCTV footage to identify and trace the culprits. Further investigation is underway. -BMB

Food delivery agent beaten up for delay, video goes viral

A Zomato delivery executive was brutally assaulted in Bengaluru after allegedly arriving late with a food order. The incident occurred near Shobha Theatre in Babuji Nagar and was captured on camera, quickly going viral and drawing widespread criticism online.
The video shows two men confronting the delivery agent before the argument escalated into violence. One attacker hit him on the head with a plastic water can, while another struck him with a chair. At one point, an intoxicated man is seen attempting to mount the victim's bike during the scuffle.
Police confirmed that an FIR has been registered at Byatarayanapura police station under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. One accused has been taken into custody. Zomato is yet to release a statement regarding the assault. -BMB

Two-wheeler rider killed in collision with private bus

A 30-year-old two-wheeler rider, Rafiqullah, died on the spot after his bike collided with a private bus near Kanteerava Stadium signal on Thursday. Police stated he lost balance while riding alongside the bus and came under its rear wheel. The accident occurred within Halsuru Gate traffic police limits. -BMB

Criminal claims blocked over contracts

The Karnataka High Court reaffirmed that criminal proceedings for cheating cannot proceed when disputes arise from valid contractual arrangements. Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum, allowing Sailen Das's petition, noted disagreements over contract performance must be addressed in civil forums. The case involved A One Steels alleging non-supply of 20,000 tonnes of iron ore fines by Jambu Odisha Trade. Das argued the matter was commercial and he could not be personally prosecuted. Citing Supreme Court precedent, the court observed partial performance indicated no fraud. "Even if allegations are accepted, essential ingredients of cheating under Section 420 IPC are not satisfied," the judgment held. -BMB

State survey legality faces challenge

The Karnataka judiciary directed the State and Union governments to respond to public interest litigations challenging the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey scheduled to begin on September 22. A division bench comprising Justices Anu Sivaraman and Rajesh Rai K heard petitions filed by Rajya Vokkaliga Sangha, Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Maha Sabha, senior advocate KN Subba Reddy, and others. Notices were issued to the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India. Petitioners argued the survey is effectively a caste census, falling under Union jurisdiction, and the State lacks authority. They highlighted flaws in the 2015 exercise, including missing records, refusal of authentication, and suppression of results, questioning legality and procedural compliance. -BMB

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AXE EFFECT

Tree Expert Committee okays felling of 1,000+ trees to give way to Phase III of Metro work

PAGE 2

VIBE CHECK

Our new series looks into what is trending in Bengaluru — and believe it or not, Qawwali is still rocking

PAGE 9

As Bigg Boss contestant's family feud spills into public domain and parties involved flaunt digital recordings of every raw emotion expressed, take a look at how blurred lines between evidence and viral content have become

FOR THE RECORD, CONTENT IS STILL KING

Experts agree digital evidence plays key role in domestic violence cases

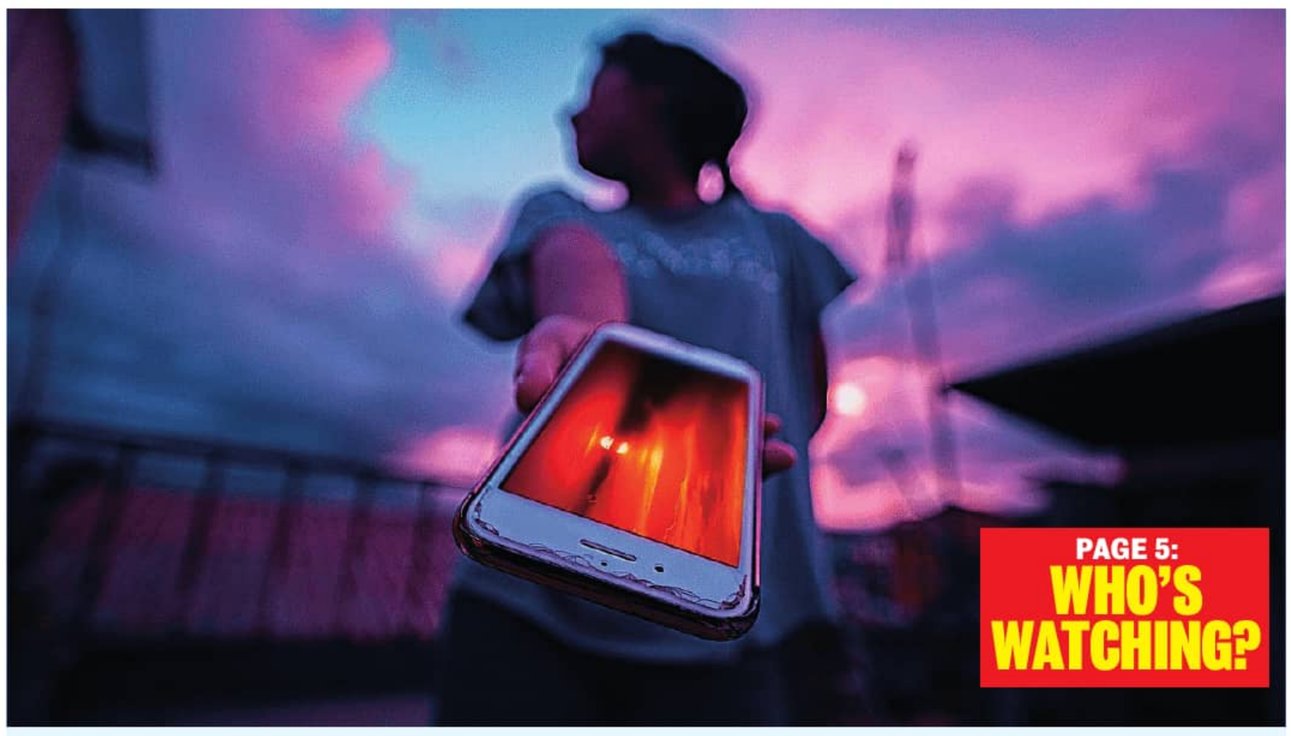
Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Once upon a time, family fights were but light whispers. Doors were shut, curtains drawn, and quarrels rarely spilled beyond the four walls. At worst, nosy neighbours might overhear raised voices; at best, it all ended in awkward silences over dinner.

Fast forward to today, and even fights come with a camera angle. Domestic disputes are no longer just verbal sparring, they're filmed, archived, and sometimes even uploaded. What was once an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »



"Digital evidence can strengthen a case, but it doesn't automatically prove it. It has to withstand court procedures, which are far more rigorous. Digital proof adds authenticity, but the law still demands that guilt be proved beyond reasonable doubt —Timothy Charles, advocate

Hostel horror

Harassment, sexual abuse shadow over residential schools as 18 cases reported in 3 years

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

In the last three years, Karnataka's residential schools, meant to provide education and security for disadvantaged girls, have been rocked by over 18 reported cases of sexual abuse, harassment, and misconduct. Instead of being safe havens, these hostels are increasingly seen as unsafe spaces, leaving parents deeply anxious about sending their daughters away to study.

The Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) oversees 821 schools, including Morarji Desai, Kittur Rani Chennamma, Ambedkar, and Sangolli Rayanna model hostels. Yet, serious violations continue to surface. In Yadgir, a Class 9 student was assaulted inside a toilet; in Shivamogga, a girl was found pregnant; in Kolar, a teacher was caught with over 1,000 obscene images on his phone. Cases have also been reported in Bidar, Kalaburagi, Haveri, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Paws and applause

The Feline Club of India is organising 'Championship Cat Show' with participation from across the country. The event also has a mega-exhibition by various pet brands, a fun activity zone and cat adoption, along with other treats. **Where: Jayamahal Convention Centre; When: September 21, 11 am**

02 Talent on display

Canara Bank is organising an exhibition celebrating talent, resilience, and community. The event features handcrafted treasures from self-help groups, artisans and aims to support local livelihoods by empowering these skilled individuals. **Where: Rangoli Metro Art Centre, MG Road; When: September 19 to 21, 11 am to 8 pm**

03 Drawn from within

KITES Senior Care Centre is organising the second edition of 'Colourful Whispers', their flagship art exhibition on World Alzheimer's Day. **Where: D Devaraj Urs Gallery, Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram; When: September 21, 10.30 am onwards**

04 Tricks and treats

Curated and hosted by internationally acclaimed magician Nakul Shenoy, 'An Evening of Magic' presents a series of unique acts and performances by acclaimed magicians, alongside some of the most notable up-and-coming stars of magic. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: September 21, 6 pm**

05 Spiritual soundcheck

Windmills Craftworks will host Rehmat-e-Nusrat, the soul-stirring Sufi ensemble led by vocalist and harmonium maestro Sarvjeet Tamta. Known for their original compositions and electrifying stage presence, the group carries forward the spiritual legacy of Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, blending timeless qawwali traditions with a fresh, contemporary voice. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: September 19 and 20, 7 pm**

Clarification

In Bangalore Mirror's September 19 issue, we had carried a brief 'ED attaches more sites in MUDA scam'. The clip taken from the wire services had a line about the CM being produced before the Special Court. This is incorrect and was carried due to oversight, which is truly regretted. The brief has since been removed from our website.

BMRCL gets nod for tree clearance

Following inspection, committee grants partial approval, allowing 1,092 trees to be felled for Phase 3 Metro project, with 406 trees to be translocated and 686 to be retained on site

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka High Court-appointed Tree Expert Committee (TEC) has issued a fresh order for the felling of more than a thousand trees to give way to Phase III of Namma Metro.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) had sought permission to remove 2,174 trees last year for the construction of elevated metro structures, including viaduct and 8 elevated stations located in JP Nagar, Kadirenahalli, Kamakya junction, Hosakerehalli, Dwarka Nagar, and Mysuru Road.

A public notice was published by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) under the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976, with the intention to invite objections and remarks from the public.

As per information from the Forest Cell, ten objections were received in response to the notice. Through these objections, citizens have expressed concerns regarding Bengaluru rapidly losing its green cover over the past few years, leading to loss of biodiversity and ecological imbalance. A few of the objections have also raised questions regarding the missing quarterly report of the compensatory afforestation by BMRCL.

In response to some of the objections, BMRCL assured that clear GAD drawings with good resolution will be uploaded henceforth. BMRCL has also stressed that the project alignment gets fixed after a detailed study by various experts, ensuring that a minimum number of trees are affected. Following this, approval of DPR is accorded. As per the guidelines, the DPR for the Metro project also incorporates road widening works as a part of city development.

Following the public notice and objections, the field forest officer concerned conducted a site inspection in March last year and submitted a report. A preliminary assessment report related to the 2,174 trees was also filed by the Deputy Conservator of Forest, BBMP, in June 2024. The Tree Expert Committee conducted a field inspection for assessment of the given trees in August last year.

Following the inspection, TEC has now permitted the removal of 1,092 trees. Additionally, while 406 trees will be translocated, 686 trees will be retained on site.

City-based tree activists and environmentalists have raised concerns over TEC's order, especially when Phase 3 construction work has been pushed to June 2026 by BMRCL.

"The crux of the Karnataka High Court's order regarding tree felling was that trees should be the last to be touched for development work. When the work has been pushed to the next year, TEC's order on tree felling appears to be in haste," said a city-based environmentalist, adding that BMRCL should have first expedited land acquisition, utility shifting, and other pre-construction activities.

BMRCL's Phase 3 corridor extends from JP Nagar 4th phase to Kempapura through the Outer Ring Road and is expected to significantly ease traffic congestion by providing sustainable mass rapid transit.

SC upholds State's Dasara invite

The Supreme Court of India has cleared the decks for the International Booker Prize–winning Kannada author Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate this year's Mysuru Dasara festival. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta on Friday dismissed a petition challenging the Karnataka government's decision to extend the invitation, bringing an end to a legal battle that had reached the apex court just days before the festival's commencement.

The petitioner, advocate HS Gaurav, argued that allowing a non-Hindu to preside over rituals inside temple premises would amount to a violation of Article 25 of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of religion. He sought either to bar Mushtaq from the event entirely or to restrict her from participating in religious aspects of the ceremony.

Earlier this week, the Karnataka High Court had already rejected similar petitions, noting that the State was well within its rights to invite a person of its choosing to inaugurate a government-sponsored festival. When the matter reached the Supreme Court, the petitioners repeated their arguments, but the bench was unconvinced. Justice Nath asked pointedly, "What is the Preamble of this country?"—a reminder of India's secular ethos and constitutional commitment to equality. The court made it clear that the State cannot discriminate among citizens on the basis of religion when selecting individuals to represent it at cultural functions. **— BMB**

State transport corporations owe ₹13.29 crore in traffic fines despite 50% rebate window

Despite the Karnataka government's offer of a 50 per cent rebate on traffic fines, state-run transport corporations have left a staggering Rs 13.29 crore unpaid. Together, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC), and Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) operate around 26,000 buses that ferry nearly 1.15 crore passengers daily, yet their drivers are among the top violators of traffic rules. Police data reveals that 2.69 lakh cases have been registered against these buses through e-challans, most of them for lane indiscipline and drivers not wearing seat belts.

The government had allowed the corporations to clear dues at half the amount—Rs 6.64 crore—between August 23 and September 12, but even with this concession, the deadline passed without payment. Meanwhile, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has written to the Home Minister seeking waiver of these penalties, arguing that transport corporations serve public interest and drivers should not be burdened with such costs. Interestingly, many cases stemmed from AI camera errors on highways—where even a bus brushing lane markings was flagged as a violation, or passengers not wearing seat belts led to fines against the buses. Of the total violations, 72.4 per cent (1.95 lakh cases) were for lane discipline, while 21.7 per cent (58,499 cases) were seat-belt related. Together, these two categories alone account for 2.53 lakh out of the 2.69 lakh violations. **— BMB**

JC Road white-topping to be completed by October 31

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao directed officials to expedite the white-topping work on JC Road and open it fully for traffic at the earliest. Inspecting the stretch on Thursday, he said the 1 km road between Minerva Circle and Town Hall is under white-topping, with half the carriageway kept open for vehicle movement. The road will be 15 metres wide with footpaths of at least 2.5 metres, RCC P-3 pipes of 1,000 mm diameter for stormwater drainage, and separate ducts for power and OFC cables. Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has also laid sewer and drinking water pipelines along both sides. The project, handed over to B-STYLE, is being fast-tracked to avoid traffic disruption — with one section to be completed by September 30 and the remaining stretch by October 31, according to officials. **— BMB**

Blood bank to open soon at Vanivilas Hospital

Vanivilas Hospital will soon have its own blood bank, expected to be operational within the next three months. The Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society (KSAPS) will manage the 3,000 sq ft facility, which the hospital has already allocated. Currently, the hospital depends on a small storage unit and often relies on Victoria Hospital's blood bank, which itself faces an annual demand of 5,000 units. Vanivilas alone requires over 3,600 units every year, with 40–50 deliveries daily and 1,500–1,800 outpatients visiting regularly.

The state government, prioritising maternal health to reduce the high maternal mortality rate, has allocated Rs 321 crore in this year's budget. While the maternal mortality ratio was 94 per lakh live births in 2020-21, it has dropped to 61 in 2024-25, with 318 deaths recorded so far this year. Experts note that excessive bleeding during childbirth is a major cause of maternal deaths, and the new blood bank will play a crucial role in preventing fatalities. **— BMB**

Realtor accused of ₹25-cr swindle using fake leases

Complaints registered by victims from different parts of city against company for scamming them with false promises of housing and defaulting repayments

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A Bengaluru-based property management firm, Catena Homes India Pvt Ltd, is under fire after seven FIRs were registered across multiple police stations, accusing the company and its directors of defrauding tenants and homeowners of nearly Rs 25 crore through fake lease and rental schemes.

Police said three individuals identified as Naveen, Raman, and Ranjith have been arrested. The cases span Parappana Agrahara, Varthur, Ramamurthy Nagar, Amruthahalli, and Electronic City.

In the first case, the Electronic City police received a complaint from a Bengaluru resident of 15 years, who alleged that the company defrauded him and several others by collecting large sums on false rental promises. The complainant reported a loss of nearly Rs 10 lakh on September 1. According to the complaint, the victim was found Catena Homes on a property portal while looking for a flat at RI Elegance Apartment, Haralur Main Road. On A property manager, Ramana, showed him the flat and demanded Rs 10 lakh for leasing it.

He transferred the money and visited the property on July 22, 2025, when the existing tenant, Satish, told him Catena Homes had failed to pay him. Officials promised him another house or a refund, but neither was provided.

The company allegedly collected lakhs of rupees from different individuals, failed to provide them with houses, did not pay rent to owners after lease agreements expired, and eventually shut down its office, leaving many victims in distress.

According to the complaint, over 70 to 80 people may have been defrauded in this manner.

Another complaint was filed at Amruthahalli Police Station on September 16. The complaint alleged that the victim was duped of Rs 17.5 lakh after being lured by a property advertisement posted in 2022. The victim was assured a leased flat by company representatives, including

Property management company allegedly swindles victims citywide, absconds with funds; cases may be moved to CID

Chandrashekhar and Director Vivek K, who claimed to offer properties with subsidies. The victim and his family moved into the flat after signing a lease agreement, but as the term neared expiry in August 2024, company officials allegedly demanded an additional Rs 5 lakh for extension. Suspicious, he approached the actual owner, who revealed that the firm had not paid rent since February. It was also discovered that several others had fallen victim to the scheme. The complaint lists victims including MS Sunilkumar (Rs 17 lakh), Nagaraj Savanur (Rs 21 lakh), Linda Kirane (Rs 29 lakh), C Jude (Rs 19 lakh), Nitin Monappa (Rs 23 lakh) and over Rs 1 crore from others.

The cases are likely to be transferred to the CID on Monday.

Disha Habitat's Armaan Malik Live in Concert: Event by Noizz Entertaiment holds Bengaluru in its sway

When 10,000 Hearts Beat as One

It wasn't just another concert. It wasn't just another evening in Bangalore. On September 13, 2025, at Phoenix Market City, Whitefield, the city witnessed something larger than life—Disha Habitat's Armaan Malik Live in Concert, Event by Noizz Entertainment. From the very first note to the last encore, this wasn't a crowd that had simply come to attend; it was an ocean of 10,000 die-hard fans who arrived with their hearts wide open, ready to celebrate music, love, and the man whose voice has become a soundtrack to countless lives.

Bangalore, a city that thrives on diversity, once again proved why it holds a special place in the world of music. With its cosmopolitan spirit and boundless passion, the city welcomed Armaan Malik with the kind of love that transcends genres and languages. Every corner of the venue pulsed with energy, every cheer echoed with devotion, and every song bridged stories from different lives into one shared experience.

The evening unfolded like a well-composed symphony. It began with an opening band Jam Party, instantly lifting the mood of the gathering and setting the rhythm for the night. Mirchi 95's Mirchi Kacheri added their signature magic, engaging the crowd in an electrifying prelude. The MC kept spirits high with moments of laughter and camaraderie, keeping the anticipation alive.And then—under the glow of lights, amid a roar of applause—Armaan Malik took the stage. What followed was not just a performance but a journey. For more than two hours, he sang, he connected, and he transformed the space into something sacred. Romantic ballads that made couples hold hands tighter, high-energy hits that had the crowd dancing without pause, soulful melodies that brought tears to eyes—every song carried with it a different shade of emotion. The audience wasn't merely listening; they were living the music. Some rediscovered love in familiar lyrics. Some drowned in nostalgia, reminded of their first crush, their first heartbreak, their first dream. Others simply surrendered, letting the music wash over them. Smiles, tears, laughter, applause—Bangalore witnessed a symphony of emotions, all conducted by one man's voice.

For Noizz Entertainment, it was more than staging a concert—it was curating an evening that reminded the city of the power of music to unite, to heal, and to celebrate life. The sight of 10,000 people swaying, singing, and cheering together was not just a number—it was history being written in sound and spirit.

As the final note lingered and the night came to a close, one thing was clear: this wasn't just a concert. This was a legacy etched into the musical heart of Bangalore. And for every fan who was there, it will remain an evening to remember—not just for days or months, but for a lifetime.

— BMB

Year-end inauguration expected for Baiyappanahalli Tree Park

Ultra-modern green space with eco-friendly features, cultural hubs, and recreational zones under rapid development

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

While the northern part of Bengaluru is preparing for a large-scale park at Madappanahalli, the eastern corridor in Baiyappanahalli is witnessing rapid work on an ultra-modern and visually striking 'Tree Park' that is expected to be inaugurated by the end of the year.

Bengaluru earned the reputation as the 'Garden City' in the 1970s with 68.2% green cover, now struggles with a mere 3%. In a bid to restore its ecological identity amid rapid urban development, the government has launched projects to create dedicated tree parks across the city. The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) is leading the transformation of approximately 70 acres of the defunct NGEF (New Government Electrical Factory) premises in Baiyappanahalli into a state-of-the-art green haven. Phase one development is already underway.

Planned facilities in phase one

- Public toilets
- Cycle docking stations
- Food court and café
- Sculpture court
- Informative signage boards
- Relaxation lounges
- 1.4 km walkway
- 200-metre elevated walk path
- Tall, extended suspension walkway
- Enclosure for domestic animals
- Watchtower infrastructure

(As of now, around 50% of the civil work is still pending, and officials aim to finish this within the next two months.

Phase one with ₹10 crore budget underway

Sources said that of the 105 acres available on the NGEF campus, KIADB is focusing on developing 70 acres in two phases. Phase one, which is currently in progress, involves the development of 5 to 20 acres at a cost of ₹10 crore. This includes an entry plaza, walking paths, a children's play area, and several eco-friendly features. The work began in December last year with the aim of completing it by July. However, KIADB sources con-

Seventy acres of former NGEF land set to become landmark green hub featuring walking paths, play zones, and community spaces

firmed that unexpected design revisions and monsoon delays have caused a six-month extension.

An official said, "The broader vision for this initiative is not just conservation but also the promotion of Karnataka's culture and heritage through a unique tourist and community-centric destination. Contractors have been strictly instructed to avoid damaging the existing greenery, refrain from cutting trees, and ensure no environmental harm during construction." The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for phase two is currently being prepared. With an estimated cost of ₹15–20 crore, this phase will include an Innovation Hub, Cultural Arts Centre, nursery, sports complex, a multipurpose auditorium, Wi-Fi zones, and architecturally significant structures.

Transformation of NGEF grounds into a modern eco-park with cultural and recreational space

A legacy space transformed

NGEF, originally established in 1956 in partnership with a German firm, was once a leading manufacturer of pumps, switchgears, and transformers. The factory ceased operations in 2002 due to financial losses. On the 240-acre NGEF premises, a portion was allocated to the Baiyappanahalli Metro station and depot under BMRCL. In 2022, then-Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced the development of an 'Innovation Experience Museum' within the NGEF premises under the 'Experience Bengaluru Project'. The plan included preserving heritage industrial spaces like NGEF and Mysore Lamps Works in Malleswaram as cultural and historic sites. For this, the 'Bengaluru Heritage and Environment Trust' was also established. "With this, Baiyappanahalli's Tree Park is not just a green initiative—it is a symbolic revival of Bengaluru's ecological and industrial legacy," an official added.

B-Smile takes charge of key B'luru works

The state government has entrusted Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-Smile) with major infrastructure works worth ₹3,216 crore across Greater Bengaluru, including tunnel roads, elevated corridors, double-decker flyovers, grade separators, roads linked to storm-water drains, white-topping, and road widening projects. It may be noted that B-Smile was previously approved as a special-purpose vehicle (SPV) tasked with executing major infrastructure projects in the city. Previously managed centrally under BBMP, these projects were split among B-Smile, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), urban municipalities, and the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Company after jurisdictional changes created confusion in execution, supervision, and payment of bills.

An official said, "Key works handed over include ₹900 crore white-topping under Brand Bengaluru, ₹800 crore white-topping from the 2023-24 budget, ₹256.7 crore high-density corridors, and other expansion works. Additionally, ₹2,828 crore projects under Brand Bengaluru for 2024-25: including mobility schemes (₹300 crore), K-RIDE (₹50 crore), and the Banashankari underpass (₹50 crore), will be managed by B-Smile. The government has also transferred ₹100 crore for waste-processing land, ₹10 crore for public toilets, and ₹70 crore for waste-handling machinery to relevant agencies. Multi-zone projects remain under B-Smile for consistency, single-zone works like junction upgrades (₹150 crore) and beautification have been assigned to respective municipal bodies, ensuring accountability and timely execution." — BMB

Water scarcity unlikely in K'taka this summer

Experts have assured that, despite a normal south-west monsoon this year, Karnataka will not face water scarcity during summer. According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), the state has so far received rainfall close to normal — southern interior areas recorded 292 mm against the normal 299 mm, northern interior saw 467 mm against 404 mm, Malnad received 1,370 mm against 1,474 mm, and coastal regions received 2,983 mm against 3,027 mm. Overall, the state has experienced near-normal rainfall. Sources explained that between March and June, Karnataka received nearly 200% more pre-monsoon rainfall than average, which improved soil moisture and groundwater recharge while reducing pressure on the south-west monsoon. If the north-east monsoon further replenishes reservoirs, farmers will have adequate water for irrigation and summer crops, despite last year's shortfall in north-east monsoon rainfall. — BMB

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Unsafe spot
Cox Town

A collapsed BWSSB chamber on Charles Campbell Road, Cox Town, has remained unattended for nearly three weeks despite multiple complaints, posing a serious public risk.

Idle asset
Kasavanahalli Road

A BWSSB water tanker has been left parked for a long time in front of the Karnataka Reserve Force office on Kasavanahalli Road.

Sanitation crisis
Rama Nagara

Opposite St. Joseph's School near Kanteerava Stadium, sanitation workers dump garbage daily around trees, highlighting BBMP's widespread neglect across Bengaluru.

Sarjapur Road congestion to ease with new measures

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has outlined a comprehensive plan to reduce traffic congestion on the Outer Ring Road (ORR), particularly along the Sarjapur Road corridor. A meeting was held on Friday at the IPP Centre in Malleswaram, chaired by Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao, with officials from BBMP, ORRCA, WRI India, BMTC, BMRCL, and representatives from tech parks.

The session reviewed proposals aimed at improving traffic movement.The East Zone will also implement the "Suraksha 75" project at Iblur Junction and extend the existing skywalk to improve pedestrian movement.

BBMP, BMTC, BMRCL, tech parks review Sarjapur, ORR traffic

In the South Zone, roads such as Harlur Road and Kaikondrahalli Road will be repaired, and encroachments removed to ensure smoother traffic. Access to bus stops in the ORR area will also be improved.

BMTC plans to extend the MF-1C feeder bus route from KR Puram Metro Station (Purple Line) to Silk Board Metro Station (Yellow Line). Medium-term measures include the redevelopment of Sarjapur Road, construction of secondary road networks, improvement of junctions, and streamlined carriageways.

The Chief Commissioner will review progress every two weeks to monitor the implementation of these steps. **–BMB**

Trendy or threat? Viral AI saree craze sparks concern

Viral AI saree edits spark nostalgia, glamour, and danger, raising privacy alarms over identity theft, deepfakes, and unprotected data misuse

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

After the viral ChatGPT Ghibli portraits, social media now has a new craze with a Bollywood twist. The Google Gemini Nano Banana AI saree trend is everywhere on Instagram and X, turning normal photos into retro-style portraits. The tool dresses people in elegant sarees with flowers in their hair and lighting that looks like old movie posters. Many users enjoy the glamour and nostalgia of seeing themselves or friends in this classic style, making it one of the fastest-spreading online trends from past three days but cyber experts warn the fun comes with risks, as uploading personal photos to free AI apps can allow images to be stored, reused, or even sold without consent, raising fears of identity theft, fake images, and misuse of data.

An AI-based image generation feature, Nano Banana, embedded in the Google Gemini app, has gained popularity for creating 3D edits resembling figurines. The trend quickly expanded as users began applying it to childhood photos, recreating memories with deceased loved ones, and even reviving viral saree styles in new ways. While some platforms offer this feature through paid subscriptions, many others provide it for free. However, experts warn that using free platforms can be risky, as data uploaded is often unprotected and vulnerable to misuse, including morphing or identity theft. Though no complaints have been reported so far, cyber experts strongly advise users to exercise caution when engaging with such AI-based tools to safeguard privacy.

Chetan Anand, National Cyber Security Scholar and Cybercrime Intervention Officer, warns that while AI-based tools may appear entertaining and trendy, they carry significant risks if misused. "Trends may fade, but once personal data is uploaded, it remains online forever," he cautioned. Since these applications require users to share personal photographs, Anand flagged the potential for identity theft, digital impersonation, and deepfake creation. "Once images are uploaded, they can be stored, shared, sold, or even used to train future AI models without the user's knowledge. Metadata like GPS or device details may also leak sensitive information. Highly realistic edits can be exploited to spread false information, manipulate identities, and create deepfakes. Users risk exposure by sharing photos without clear consent," Anand explained.

He further noted that free AI apps may look harmless but can expose users to serious cyber risks. "Cybercrimes often lurk on platforms that use unauthorised applications or compromise user data. Many platforms retain rights to your images even after deletion, and most people unknowingly agree to such terms. This means your face, along with hidden data like location or device details, could be stored indefinitely. In the wrong hands, that information can be misused," Anand added.

User uploading photo to Banana AI saree trend, highlighting privacy risks and deepfake concerns

> **"Once images are uploaded, they can be stored, shared, sold, or even used to train future AI models without the user's knowledge** –Chetan Anand

Amid the buzz around the Banana AI saree trend, a woman shared a chilling experience that has shocked the internet. Taking to Instagram, she posted a video explaining how she too tried the viral trend by uploading a picture of herself in full sleeves. While the app generated an image of her in a saree, she was startled to find that the AI also showed a mole on her body, something not visible in the original photo. "How does Gemini know I have a mole in this part of my body? You can see this mole… this is very scary, very creepy. I'm still not sure how this happened. I just wanted to share this with all of you. Please be safe with whatever you upload on social media or AI platforms," she said in the video. There were several other comments who had explained tattoos were not visible but in the generated image it is shown etc.

However, Anand urges caution, saying, "Citizens need to be aware of the privacy risks associated with AI tools, Unrealistic beauty filters may affect self-esteem or promote distorted body image and if such images are leaked, could cause embarrassment. Unclear data retention policies and lack of effective public tools to detect AI watermarks raise concerns."

Dangerous roads put children at risk

Bengaluru's crumbling roads continue to endanger lives, with yet another school vehicle getting stuck—the third such case this week and the second in a single day.

The latest incident occurred near Skanda Moksh Society in Panathur–Balagere, where a school bus sank into an under-construction storm-water drain. A video shows a JCB trying to push the bus out while onlookers gathered to watch the rescue.

Earlier, a school minivan carrying children got trapped in an open drain on Panathur–Bellandur Road while heading to a school in Doddanekundi.

These incidents follow the September 12 case on Balagere Main Road, where a school bus tilted dangerously after slipping into slush while overtaking. Dashcam footage captured the bus veering off the broken road edge and nearly toppling. Locals immediately evacuated the children through the emergency exit. Thankfully, no injuries have been reported in any of the cases, highlighting the urgent need for safer roads in the city. **–BMB**

Man arrested for Facebook abuse

A 40-year-old man from Sakleshpur, Hassan district, was arrested by CCB police for allegedly posting abusive remarks against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Facebook. The accused, Vasanth Kumar, a retired soldier and current farmer, made the controversial post reacting to an incident during President Droupadi Murmu's visit to AIISH, Mysuru. Upset by the CM's light-hearted remark about the President knowing Kannada, Kumar wrote a derogatory comment targeting him. Police registered a case, and he is in judicial custody pending further investigation. **–BMB**

CORRIGENDUM

In Bangalore Mirror edition dated September 19, a story carried under the headline 'Right to shelter fundamental, says SC in relief to home-buyer ' was different from what the headline suggested. This was an inadvertent error. Please read the story here: https://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/others/right-to-shelter-fundamental-says-sc-in-relief-to-homebuyers/articleshow/123987379.cms

Kanakapura road emerges as city's hottest property destination

From metro extension to bypass projects, southern corridor sees rapid transformation

Kanakapura Road is rapidly emerging as a key real estate corridor in Bengaluru. With improved infrastructure, metro connectivity, and a surge in residential and commercial projects, the locality is attracting home buyers and investors.

Metro connectivity

The Namma Metro Green Line extension to Anjanapura has been a game-changer, reducing travel time to the city centre. Plans for further connectivity towards NICE Road are already attracting investor interest, said Ravi N, a property developer.

The government's focus on widening roads, building bypasses at Harohalli and Kanakapura, and improving arterial routes has boosted the region's appeal. Unlike other congested Bengaluru localities, Kanakapura Road retains its greenery, offering a balance of city living and suburban charm. According to Anita Shetty, a real estate consultant, "Families prefer this locality because it offers schools and hospitals nearby and is closer to weekend getaways such as Art of Living International Centre and Bannerghatta National Park."

Property options

Developers are offering a mix of premium villas, affordable flats, and plotted developments. Property prices remain competitive compared with areas like Whitefield or Sarjapur Road.

"Home buyers are looking for long-term investments. Kanakapura Road not only offers affordable homes but also promises steady appreciation due to its strategic location," noted Rahul Gupta, Director of Green Leaf Properties.

For buyers, the region's affordability, greenery, and future potential are key attractions. Kavya Rao, a first-time buyer who recently booked a two-bedroom flat near Talaghattapura, said, "I wanted a home close to my workplace on Bannerghatta Road but without the chaos."

Similarly, investor Prakash Menon added, "I see this as a long-term investment. With upcoming commercial hubs around NICE Road and the Hosur corridor, property here will appreciate faster than in many other parts of Bengaluru." **– Prakash VL**

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Housing market sees investor surge

Housing affordability continues to be a pressing concern for home buyers across India, with 81% of respondents in the latest ANAROCK Consumer Sentiment Survey citing steep price hikes as a major deterrent.

Bengaluru, however, stands out with the highest share of investor-driven demand – 43% of buyers in the city are looking at property purely for investment, while 57% are end-users. In contrast, Delhi-NCR recorded the lowest share of investors at just 26%.

The survey highlights that average housing prices across the top seven cities have surged by more than 50% in just two years, from ₹6,001 per sq ft in Q2 2023 to ₹8,990 per sq ft in Q2 2025.

Buyers cite poor locations, small unit sizes, and substandard construction as key reasons for rejecting budget projects.

Homes priced between ₹90 lakh and ₹1.5 crore are now the most sought-after, preferred by 36% of respondents, with 25% opting for properties in the ₹45–90 lakh range. Despite affordability concerns, real estate remains the most preferred investment asset for 63% of respondents. Millennials and Gen-X buyers continue to drive demand, with many planning to use their investment gains to buy homes in the near future. **BMB**

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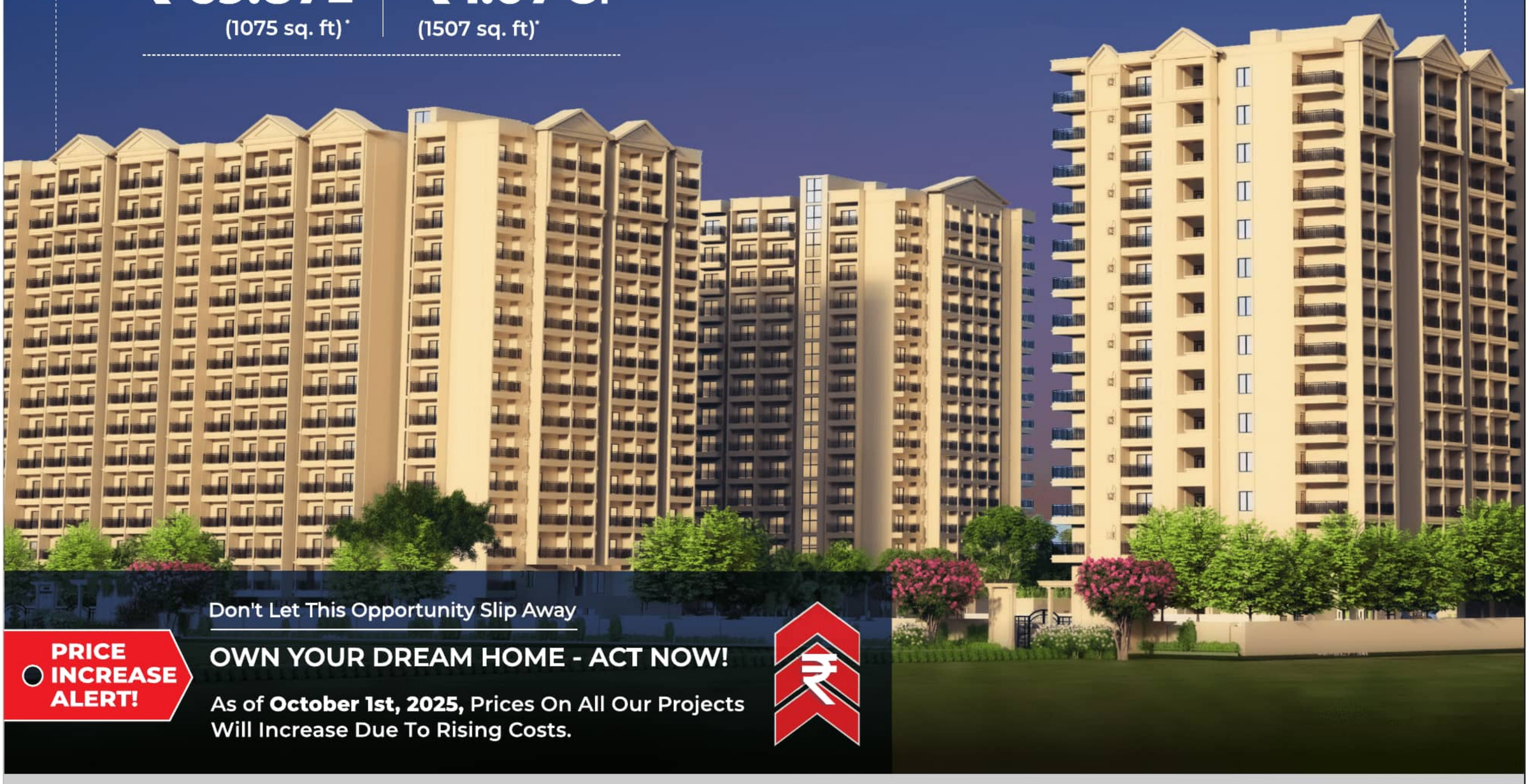

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STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

GOOD JOB

A reader has sent us a picture of a beautiful garden developed and maintained at Banashankari on the wall of a pay & use toilet. The reader says this is unique in Bangalore and must be a model for cities. Congrats to the agencies concerned.

The picture was clicked by reader **SC Laxman**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

No parking: Work on metro station parking has been going on and on

Metro users struggle as parking works drag on at Benniganahalli

For the past eight months, metro commuters at Benniganahalli station have been grappling with severe parking woes as development works remain incomplete. What was supposed to be a temporary closure of parking facilities for construction has turned into a prolonged ordeal, leaving thousands of daily passengers in distress. Both entry points of the station earlier had dedicated two-wheeler parking, but the facility was shut to make way for ongoing work. With no alternative arrangement in place, two-wheeler riders now park on pedestrian pathways near the station, blocking access and worsening congestion in an already traffic-heavy stretch.

"Without parking, commuters are forced to wander three to four kilometres in search of a safe place to leave their vehicles. Even then, finding a spot is not guaranteed," said Pradeep Gowda, a daily commuter. He added that the absence of basic facilities makes the metro experience increasingly frustrating.

The parking crunch has forced some passengers to abandon Benniganahalli altogether. Instead, they head to KR Puram or Baiyappanahalli metro stations, which still have functional parking lots. Others reluctantly park in interior residential areas, inconveniencing locals and adding to neighborhood disputes. For many, this means wasting additional time in traffic before even starting their metro journey. Benniganahalli is a crucial junction, serving as a connecting point not only for Bengaluru's eastern stretches such as Kolar, Marathahalli, and Hebbal, but also for commuters heading towards Andhra Pradesh and coastal Karnataka (Tulunadu). Despite the metro line's promise of easing congestion, the lack of parking has ensured that traffic bottlenecks persist.

"Commuters depend on private vehicles to reach metro stations. With parking closed indefinitely, people are either discouraged from using the metro or forced into chaotic, unsafe options. This defeats the purpose of public transport integration," complained another regular user. The incomplete works also raise questions of planning and accountability. While the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) had announced improvements months ago, no timeline for completion has been communicated to the public. Meanwhile, two-wheelers spilling onto footpaths have created hazards for pedestrians, especially schoolchildren and senior citizens. Local residents and commuters are now demanding urgent completion of development works and immediate restoration of parking space. "If the project had deadlines, why hasn't it been completed? Every day, people are wasting precious time and facing unnecessary stress just to access the metro," said a shopkeeper near the station. Citizens are calling on the authorities to fast-track the project and ensure that the two-wheeler parking facility is reinstated without further delay. — BMB

Two-wheeler riders now park on pedestrian pathways near the Benniganahalli station

DID YOU KNOW?

Scientists have identified the origins of the blue colour in one of Jackson Pollock's paintings with a little help from chemistry, confirming for the first time that the abstract expressionist used a vibrant, synthetic pigment known as manganese blue. "Number 1A, 1948," showcases Pollock's classic style: paint has been dripped and splattered across the canvas, creating a vivid, multicoloured work. Pollock even gave the piece a personal touch, adding his handprints near the top.

The painting, currently on display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, is almost 9 feet (2.7 metres) wide.

Scientists had previously characterised the reds and yellows splattered across the canvas, but the source of the rich turquoise blue proved elusive.

In a new study, researchers took scrapings of the blue paint and used lasers to scatter light and measure how the paint's molecules vibrated. That gave them a unique chemical fingerprint for the colour, which they pinpointed as manganese blue.

The analysis, published Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, is the first confirmed evidence of Pollock using this specific blue. — AP

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Simone Biles blog post about Charlie Kirk DOES NOT EXIST

Claim: A information became viral on Facebook that gymnast Simone Biles had written a blog post after Charlie Kirk's death
Fact: Turns out this was an AI-generated text tricking social media feeds

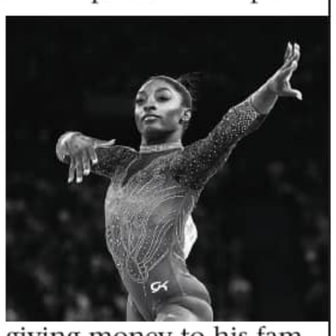
Facebook's viral false information has claimed Simone Biles as its most recent victim. A false claim that went around online said that the Olympic gymnast wrote a blog post about Charlie Kirk, a conservative activist, after he was killed. The post that was supposed to be there doesn't exist. This is another example of AI-generated text tricking social media feeds.

This time, Simone Biles is stuck in the middle of social media spreading false information. After the murder of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, Facebook was full of fake posts saying that Biles had written a blog about him, as per a report by For The Win. However, the reality is that there is no such blog post.

The viral story is just one of many AI-generated texts designed to deceive people. Some people thought it was true, but trusted sources like Reuters and the BBC say there is no record of Biles writing or posting a blog about Kirk, as per a report by For The Win.

What was the false claim about Simone Biles?

The posts on Facebook said that Simone Biles wrote a dramatic blog post about Kirk after he died. The misinformation post said things like, "The blog arrived like a lightning strike, sending shockwaves through both the sports and political landscapes." But the posts didn't give any links, proof, or information. When users clicked through, they were taken to an AI-written article that mentioned a blog that doesn't exist.



This wasn't the first time false information about Kirk's death hurt athletes. There were earlier false posts that said public figures were giving money to his family or asking for moments of silence, but these were all lies. This is yet another instance of meta platforms promoting false information while disregarding credible sources, as per a report by For The Win.

What made the fake story spread so fast?

Experts say that false information that mixes old events with new ones tends to spread quickly. After Biles pulled out of the Tokyo Games because of the "twisties" in 2021, Charlie Kirk openly criticized her, calling her a "sociopath" and a "shame to the country." The public fight made the new claim seem possible, even though it wasn't true, as per a report by For The Win. The fake post used a common formula: a shocking headline, vague phrases like "sending shockwaves," and a link that led to something else. Many people shared this because it had a mix of true and false information, which made them not check reliable sources.

What does this mean for Simone Biles and Facebook's credibility?

This false information is just more online abuse for Biles. Since 2021, she has been criticized a lot for putting her mental and physical health first. Being connected to a made-up story about a controversial person like Kirk only makes the investigation more unfair. In the end, it's completely false that Simone Biles wrote a blog post about Charlie Kirk. It reminds readers to check facts, not trust screenshots without proof, and get their news from reliable sources when it's breaking.

— ET Online

VIBE CHECK *Where we check in on what is rad in Bengaluru*

Not your average Friday night jam

Bengaluru's own new qawwali band offers people chance to witness music form's soulful magic firsthand; audience reactions show that even with newer music trends in spotlight, charm of qawwali has not dimmed

Iffath Fathima
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Qawwali, with its soulful verses and powerful rhythms, has long been a music of devotion and togetherness. While the spirit of qawwali never truly faded in Bengaluru, its presence has been sporadic—rarely surfacing more than once a year—leaving many without the opportunity to experience it. Traditionally heard at dargahs and Urs gatherings, it is now slowly returning to bands that bring the same magic to wider audiences.

Bengaluru now has its own qawwali band called Sukoon Waali Qawwali, started by Chandan, a former project manager. The idea of Sukoon began around a year and a half ago at his home, which he calls Sukoon Ghar, in BTM Layout. His friends and family would often gather to share shayari, qawwali, and Sufi music. Inspired by these moments, they decided to host a qawwali event at home. In July last year, Chandan and nine of his friends came together to present the first-ever Sukoon Waali Qawwali, a heartfelt gathering with just 50 guests. When the video of the evening was shared on social media, the response was overwhelmingly warm—so much so that people began asking for more such events.

Seeing the enthusiastic response and growing interest, Chandan decided to organise a public event and reached out to multiple clubs. Initially, the clubs were uncertain about the turnout for a qawwali gathering, but Chandan assured them it would draw an audience—and the event was held in Koramangala.

Their first major public show took place at a club in Koramangala with a 250-seat capacity—and it was packed beyond expectation. The excitement only grew—in October, an event in HSR Layout saw over 570 people in attendance. "Initially, people told us that no one would turn up for qawwali in Bengaluru, but the response proved otherwise," Chandan recalled.

The team adds a special touch to each event by curating a traditional atmosphere—welcoming guests with gajras, rose water sprays, and an ethnic dress code. Since then, the band has performed across different places, including Hubbali, receiving love everywhere they went, hosting nearly 70 shows in just a year.

Interestingly, the audience, mostly in the 20–40 age group, often sings louder than the band. "Many of them grew up listening to these songs and miss hearing them live, especially in a city like Bengaluru where qawwali events are rare. Qawwali culture was fading with the rise of western influences like techno and rock, although people would love to hear them, there wouldn't be many qawwali artists playing live," said Chandan.

Preema John, Director at the Indian Music Experience Museum, noted that qawwali remains vibrant and active today, with two distinct forms of performance: one deeply rooted in spiritual practice at dargahs, and the other presented in contemporary venues as cultural events. "When IME hosted two shows last year, we brought in groups like Mehfil-e-Sama from Kerala, and KMMC Sufi Ensemble from AR Rahman Sir's KM Music Conservatory in Chennai, this event was houseful with nearly 1,000 people attending," said John. She noted that traditional pieces can go on for 15–20 minutes or more, while film qawwalis are shorter, around seven minutes.

With B'luru witnessing rise in qawwali shows, audiences are increasingly choosing its soulful energy over more commercial music

Four girls kidnapped by group of men, released after ransom paid

Abduction case registered with police days after incident due to victim having fear of retaliation, case later transferred to CCB; further investigations are currently underway

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A kidnapping case involving four young women, allegedly abducted and released after ransom was paid, has been transferred to the Central Crime Branch (CCB) for a detailed probe.

According to police, the incident began on August 25, 2025, when a woman named Swapna, known to the complainant, asked him to send girls for a job. Trusting her, he sent four girls to Byadarahalli around 6 pm.

By 8 pm, when he tried to reach them, the girls' phones were switched off. On contacting Swapna, she assured him she would get back, but the next day the complainant received a ransom call demanding Rs 5 lakh. The caller threatened to harm the girls and keep them in illegal detention if the amount was not paid.

Incident points to possibility of organised gang involved in similar kidnappings, with suspicion of deliberate targeting of migrant workers

Fearing for their safety, the complainant transferred Rs 30,000, after which the gang demanded an additional Rs 50,000 and instructed him to come to Andhrahalli. The ordeal continued until August 29, when the victims were released near Yeshwanthpur Metro Station.

The four girls later revealed that they had been abducted by four to five men in a car from Byadarahalli, tied up, harassed, and forced to call for ransom money through their families.

Initially hesitant to approach police due to fear of retaliation, the complainant later lodged a complaint after consulting friends. A case was registered for kidnapping, illegal confinement, harassment, and extortion under the Byadarahalli Police Station after more than a week of the incident.

On Friday, the case was transferred to the CCB. Police officials, however, declined to share further information. "The case has been handed over to the CCB and they will take the investigation forward," a senior officer said. It is suspected that the girls were lured under the pretext of odd jobs, pointing to the possibility of an organised gang involved in similar kidnappings. Deliberate targeting of migrant workers is suspected, due to the assumption that they are less likely to approach the police.

SOCIAL TATTLE

That went viral

This person has taken chilling to another level. He was seen lying down on a mattress placed on the road near St Joseph's University bus stop. https://x.com/karnatakaportf/status/1968359427167404475?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1968359427167404475%7Ctwgr%5E83f272a00bd9a645b4a5149cd0c791f50e18a377%7Ctwcon%5Es1_c10&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fapi-news.dailyhunt.in%2F

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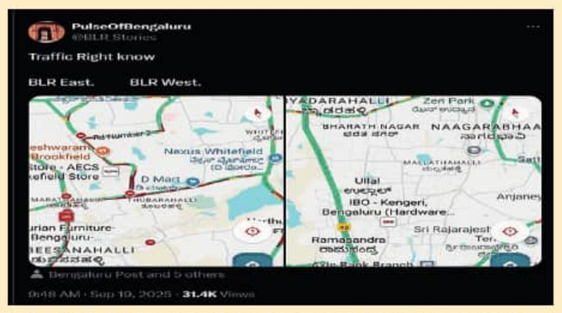
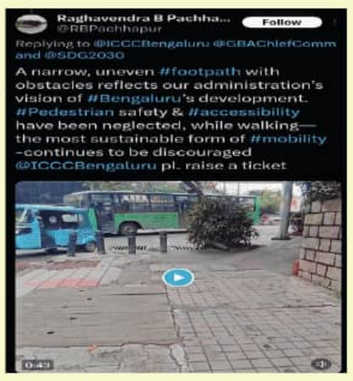
49

A reader brings to attention BM's story on Ramadevara-betta's vulture nesting spot



5) A photo posted on social media went viral as it shows traffic movement in the city. In the map given, in West Bengaluru, traffic is seen moving while roads are clogged in the East: "Gridlock in every direction — East or West, Bengaluru traffic is a test."

A X user @RBPachhapur writes about the troubles pedestrians have to face: A narrow, uneven #footpath with obstacles reflects our administration's vision of #Bengaluru's development. #Pedestrian safety & #accessibility have been neglected, while walking—the most sustainable form of #mobility -continues to be discouraged @ICCCBengaluru pl. raise a ticket. https://x.com/RBPachhapur/status/1969024134253322266


Raghavendra B Pachha...
@RBPachhapur
Follow
Replying to @ICCCBengaluru @GBAChiefComm and @SDG2030
A narrow, uneven #footpath with obstacles reflects our administration's vision of #Bengaluru's development. #Pedestrian safety & #accessibility have been neglected, while walking—the most sustainable form of #mobility -continues to be discouraged @ICCCBengaluru pl. raise a ticket

What's tweeting

A X user @Homelyfoodny expresses their frustration with pothole-riddled roads, writing: "Endless patches, endless potholes — Bengaluru's roads won't be pothole-free even by November 2025."

Homely Food Near
@HomelyFoodNY
Bengaluru Potholes cannot be fixed by November 2025. It's everywhere. Patch work will lead to new and deeper potholes.
#pothole #Bengaluru #Trending
6:39 PM · Sep 19, 2025 · 10 Views

Control the narrative

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

embarrassing secret is now "content", complete with digital evidence and the potential for virality.

Take the case of Bigg Boss contestant Ranjith's family feud. A quarrel between his wife and sister turned into less of a household spat and more of a live recording session. Instead of putting the phone down to cool tempers, both women were busy pointing their cameras at each other, documenting every word and move as though the fight was an episode waiting to be streamed.

The videos accessed by BM show just how far this shift has gone. In one clip, Ranjith's wife is heard saying she has recorded proof of his sister slapping her, not just an outburst, but evidence.

The police at Amruthahalli station, where the case landed, were less amused. With mutual complaints over property rights to the first-floor flat of an apartment complex, both sides turned up armed with more than allegations, their mobile recordings as evidence. The dispute wasn't just about the house anymore, it was also about who got to frame the narrative online. The police, however, has registered an NCR (non-cognizable report) and advised both parties to approach the court, the videos themselves have become a talking point, seen, heard, and discussed well beyond the walls of the housing society.

What's driving this shift?

At the heart of it, this is about how our idea of conflict, privacy, and presence has changed. Social media has completely blurred the line between what's "personal" and what's "public". Recording a fight isn't just about keeping proof anymore, it's about control. Whoever's holding the phone decides the narrative, they can paint themselves as the victim, the whistleblower or sometimes even turn into an influencer by accident.

We live in a time where visibility matters more than silence. Sociologists note that even pain has become a performance. People don't mind putting their mess out there, not just in front of family, but online for the world to see. It's not about shame anymore, it's about strategy.

Digital evidence in violence

City-based advocate Timothy Charles told BM that digital evidence now plays a key role in domestic violence cases. He observed that in recent years, the use of recordings, photos, and other digital material has significantly increased. "WhatsApp calls, text messages, voice notes, even money transactions, all of these count as digital evidence, and we are seeing them being produced more often in domestic violence disputes," he said.

He explained that under the Evidence Act, mobile phones and digital files are recognised forms of proof. "Earlier, in the 2000s, we spoke about tapes and CDs being placed before the court. Today, it's mobile recordings. If someone declares that this is their phone and that the video or file was downloaded from it, the court will take it into consideration."

He pointed out that in domestic violence cases, eyewitnesses are often family members who may also be accused, which makes independent testimony difficult. "Here, recordings can be very helpful. Digital evidence can strengthen a case, but it doesn't automatically prove it. It has to withstand court procedures, which are far more rigorous. Digital proof adds authenticity, but the law still demands that guilt be proved beyond reasonable doubt," he added.

Citing examples, he noted how digital evidence has been critical in high-profile cases such as the Prajwal Revanna gang rape case, where witness accounts alone could not be relied upon.

At the same time, he cautioned that social media is "an uncontrollable space" where domestic violence videos and photos often go viral, misinterpreted by the public without legal context. "In court, it isn't as simple, a video clip may add weight, but proving an offence takes far more than that," he said.

Lack of wardens, CCTV, health check-up hamper hostel life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Koppal, Chitradurga, and Chikkaballapur. Even more troubling is the fact that in several instances, principals, wardens, and physical education instructors accused of abuse have managed to return to service in other hostels. Some cases have quietly ended at the police station level, raising concerns of cover-ups and systemic apathy.

Parents who once saw residential schools as stepping stones to opportunity for their daughters now question their safety. "Many schools still operate in rented buildings without boundary walls. Hostels are often managed by a single warden, leaving dozens of young girls without adequate supervision or protection. The recurrence of abuse cases has pushed families to reconsider whether education away from home is worth the risk," said a parent.

Reforms cannot wait

Education experts and child rights activists say the problem is structural and needs urgent correction. They are demanding more staff in hostels, with at least two wardens per institution; regular health check-ups by staff nurses; and compulsory CCTV surveillance to deter predatory behaviour. Crucially, they insist that employees accused of abuse should never be reinstated, and that special monitoring should be put in place for adolescent girls.

A senior official admitted the seriousness of the issue. "Strict action is being taken wherever abuse is reported. We have issued warnings to all residential schools and instructed them to prioritise the safety and health of girl students," he said.

But with more than 18 cases reported in just three years, parents, activists, and the public remain skeptical. The larger question still looms—if systemic accountability is not enforced, can Karnataka's residential schools ever be trusted to keep girls safe?

Decline in TB cases masks drug resistance threat

India's fight against tuberculosis (TB) shows progress in reducing overall cases, but drug-resistant TB remains a serious challenge. According to Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel, multi-drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) cases fell from 63,815 in 2023 to 59,036 in 2024, while extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) rose from 114 to 146 cases. This mixed trend reflects both improved detection and persistent treatment gaps.

Karnataka reported 1,650 drug-resistant TB cases in 2023, dropping to 1,423 in 2024. While encouraging, the state still figures among the higher-burden regions in South India, alongside Tamil Nadu (1,822 —1,340) and Telangana (1,547—1,412). In contrast, Kerala's sharp fall to 237 cases in 2024 highlights how Karnataka's slower pace leaves it struggling to catch up.

Nationally, the heaviest burdens remain concentrated in larger states. Maharashtra recorded 10,340 cases in 2023 and 9,380 in 2024, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 17,013 —16,436 and Bihar with 4,633 — 4,442 cases. Smaller states and Union Territories such as Goa (41 cases), Chandigarh (75), and Puducherry (9) reported minimal numbers.

The South presents a varied picture. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka registered significant declines, while Telangana's fall was marginal. Kerala, traditionally strong in health indicators, saw a drop from 323 to 237, reflecting robust TB management.

The World Health Organisation's Global TB Report 2024 noted that India's TB incidence has declined by 17.7% since 2015, outpacing the global average. TB deaths also reduced by 21.4% in the same period. Yet the persistence of MDR and XDR strains indicates that without stronger follow-up treatment and monitoring, drug resistance could undermine these gains.

An expert observed, "Karnataka's steady but slower decline compared to Kerala and Tamil Nadu suggests a pressing need for stronger intervention in diagnosis, adherence, and follow-up care." **BMB**

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MAMATHA MOODYA JAGADISH Alias MAMATHA MAYEGOWDA JAGADISH, No 1, 9th A Main, 10th Cross, Srinivasa Nagar, Banashankari, Bengaluru-560050, I here by declare that MAMATHA MOODYA JAGADISH and MAMATHA MAYEGOWDA JAGADISH both the names are same vide affidavit dated 19/09/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, SULOCHANA, Residing at No 32, 9th A Main, 36th Cross, 5th Block, Jayanagar,Bangalore-560041, Have changed my name to SULOCHANA P CHOWHAN, vide affidavit dated 19/09/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Nandini R/o 213, SLV HM signature Apts, 13th main, 5th cross, 4th block, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to Nandini Krishnappa Affidavit Dt.19/09/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

ANJANA Piyush Patel D /0 . Bhimsena map 03 230/1 officer Qtr Air Force command Hospital Bangalore 560008 have changed to Anjana Rani. Father name change to Bhimsen Khattri.

I, J C PRADEEP KUMAR, Residing at No 32, 9th A Main, 36th Cross, 5th Block, Jayanagar,Bangalore-560041, Have changed my name to PRADEEP KUMAR, vide affidavit dated 19/09/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

PIYUSH kumar Mohanlal Patel S/o Mohanlal M Patel. Air Force Command Hospital Cambridge layout road. Bangalore 560008 have change to Piyush M Patel. Change of DOB from 11/05/1964 to 11/05/1965.

I, SWEETY SURANA, residing at A-504, ASPEN Woods APT, Doddakammanahalli, Bengaluru – 560076, have changed my name to SWEETY KAWARIYA vide affidavit dated 19/09/2025 sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, Vishal Kumar Goyal s/o Madan Kumar Goyal R/o 212, Mahaveer Rhythm, Nyanapana halli, Begur, Bengaluru 560068 have changed my name to Vishal Goyal, Affidavit Dt.19/09/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Chandrashekara B T, R/o 291, BDA 2nd block, BSK 6th phase, Bengaluru 560061 have changed my name to Chandrashekar B T. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Pramoda Kumara B S/o B Bhaskar Rao R/o tryaksha raksha D2 94 Nandakumar layout Ramanjaneya Nagar chikkalsandra B'lore-560061 have changed my name to B Pramod Kumar for all purposes

LOST & FOUND

I, Chandramma, residing at Sinkanahalli village, Huladenahally, Malur Taluk, Kolar District. I have lost my original sale deed copy (Haladenahally sy no 80/3 acres 24 guntas property 849/3143/4 site no 4 measuring 1200 sqft registered in Anekal document no 2000/2012-2013 dated 05/07/2012) at Attibele circle Xerox Shop on 20/06/2025. If anybody find please handover to the nearest Police Station or above mentioned address.

GALLERIA

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JAI DURGA CRACKERS
ದೀಪಾವಳಿ 2025 ಕ್ಕೆ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ 18,25,30,36,40,45,55 ಮತ್ತು 70 ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಅತ್ಯುತ್ತಮ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಉಡುಗೊರೆ ಪೆಟ್ಟಿಗೆಗಳು.
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಡೋರ್ ಡೆಲಿವರಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದೆ.
CONTACT
SHOBA SAROJ
9345059946 | 9891966048
TIMING: 10AM TO 6 PM

Pushed to the brink by a bot

Suicide-by-chatbot puts Big Tech in the product liability hot seat

It is a sad fact of online life that users search for information about suicide. In the earliest days of the internet, bulletin boards featured suicide discussion groups. To this day, Google hosts archives of these groups, as do other services.

Google and others can host and display this content under the protective cloak of U.S. immunity from liability for the dangerous advice third parties might give about suicide. That's because the speech is the third party's, not Google's.

But what if ChatGPT, informed by the very same online suicide materials, gives you suicide advice in a chatbot conversation? I'm a technology law scholar and a former lawyer and engineering director at Google, and I see AI chatbots shifting Big Tech's position in the legal landscape. Families of suicide victims are testing out chatbot liability arguments in court right now, with some early successes.

Who is responsible when a chatbot speaks?

When people search for information online, whether about suicide, music or recipes, search engines show results from websites, and websites host information from authors of content. This chain, search to web host to user speech, continued as the dominant way people got their questions answered until very recently.

This pipeline was roughly the model of internet activity when Congress passed the Communications Decency Act in 1996. Section 230 of the act created immunity for the first two links in the chain, search and web hosts, from the user speech they show. Only the last link in the chain, the user, faced liability for their speech.

Chatbots collapse these old distinctions. Now, ChatGPT and similar bots can search, collect website information and speak out the results – literally, in the case of humanlike voice bots. In some instances, the bot will show its work like a search engine would, noting the website that is the source of its great recipe for miso chicken.

When chatbots appear to be just a friendlier form of good old search engines, their companies can make plausible arguments that the old immunity regime applies. Chatbots can be the old search-web-speaker model in a new wrapper.

When people search for info online, about suicide, music or recipes, search engines show results from websites

But in other instances, it acts like a trusted friend, asking you about your day and offering help with your emotional needs. Search engines under the old model did not act as life guides. Chatbots are often used this way. Users often do not even want the bot to show its hand with web links. Throwing in citations while ChatGPT tells you to have a great day would be, well, awkward.

The more that modern chatbots depart from the old structures of the web, the further away they move from the immunity the old web players have long enjoyed. When a chatbot acts as your personal confidant, pulling from its virtual brain ideas on how it might help you achieve your stated goals, it is not a stretch to treat it as the responsible speaker for the information it provides.

Courts are responding in kind, particularly when the bot's vast, helpful brain is directed toward aiding your desire to learn about suicide.

Chatbot suicide cases

Current lawsuits involving chatbots and suicide victims show that the door of liability is opening for ChatGPT and other bots. A case involving Google's Character.AI bots is a prime example.

Character.AI allows users to chat with characters created by users, from anime figures to a prototypical grandmother. Users could even have virtual phone calls with some characters, talking to a supportive virtual nanna as if it were their own. In one case in Florida, a character in the "Game of Thrones" Daenerys Targaryen persona allegedly asked the young victim to "come home" to the bot in heaven before the teen shot himself. The family of the victim sued Google.

The family of the victim did not frame Google's role in traditional technology terms. Rather than describing Google's liability in the context of websites or search functions, the plaintiff framed Google's liability in terms of products and manufacturing akin to a defective parts maker. The district court gave this framing credence despite Google's vehement argument that it is merely an internet service, and thus the old internet rules should apply.

The more that modern chatbots depart from the old structures of the web, the further away they move from the immunity the old web players have long enjoyed

The court also rejected arguments that the bot's statements were protected First Amendment speech that users have a right to hear.

Though the case is ongoing, Google failed to get the quick dismissal that tech platforms have long counted on under the old rules. Now, there is a follow-on suit for a different Character.AI bot in Colorado, and ChatGPT faces a case in San Francisco, all with product and manufacture framings like the Florida case.

Though the door to liability for chatbot providers is now open, other issues could keep families of victims from recovering any damages from the bot providers. Even if ChatGPT and its competitors are not immune from lawsuits and courts buy into the product liability system for chatbots, lack of immunity does not equal victory for plaintiffs.

Product liability cases require the plaintiff to show that the defendant caused the harm at issue. This is particularly difficult in suicide cases, as courts tend to find that, regardless of what came before, the only person responsible for suicide is the victim.

But without the protection of immunity that digital platforms have enjoyed for decades, tech defendants face much higher costs to get the same victory they used to receive automatically.

(Brian Downing, University of Mississippi, The Conversation)

BITS & BYTES

OPENAI SPREADS WINGS

OpenAI has signed a deal with Apple device assembler, Luxshare, to make a consumer device, the Information reported on Friday, citing people familiar with the matter.

The device is currently a prototype under development and is expected to be pocket-sized and aware of context, designed to work closely with the ChatGPT parent's artificial intelligence models.

Such a gadget could eat into the markets of Apple and other consumer electronics makers by offering an alternative to users for interacting with AI, challenging the dominance of smartphones and traditional hardware.

Luxshare and OpenAI did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment. **Reuters**

TRUMP, XI TALK TIKTOK

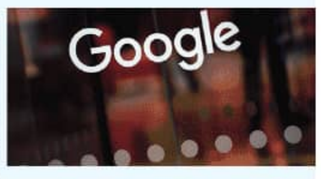
US President Donald Trump is talking with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Friday in a push to finalise a deal to allow the popular social media app TikTok to keep operating in the United States.

The call between the two leaders began around 8 am Washington time, according to a White House official and China's Xinhua News Agency.

The call may offer clues about whether the two leaders might meet in person to hash out a final agreement to end their trade war and provide clarity on where relations between the world's two superpowers may be headed.

This would be the second call with Xi since Trump returned to the White House and launched sky-high tariffs on China, triggering back-and-forth trade restrictions that strained ties between the two largest economies. **AP**

GOOGLE'S PICK



US tech giant Google on Friday announced the latest cohort of its free three-month 'AI accelerator' programme -- a group of 20 start-ups selected from over 1,600 applicants in the country.

The programme, titled 'Google for Startups Accelerator: AI First in India,' began this week and aims to scale AI-driven solutions across healthcare, finance, climate, education and more. The programme is designed for AI First startups between Seed to Series A based in India, that are building core AI products, applications or foundational models, a release from the company said.

The support for founders includes Google Cloud infrastructure and access to cutting-edge Gemini models, with technical mentorship and go-to-market strategies.. **IANS**

mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
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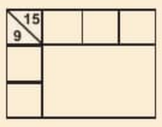
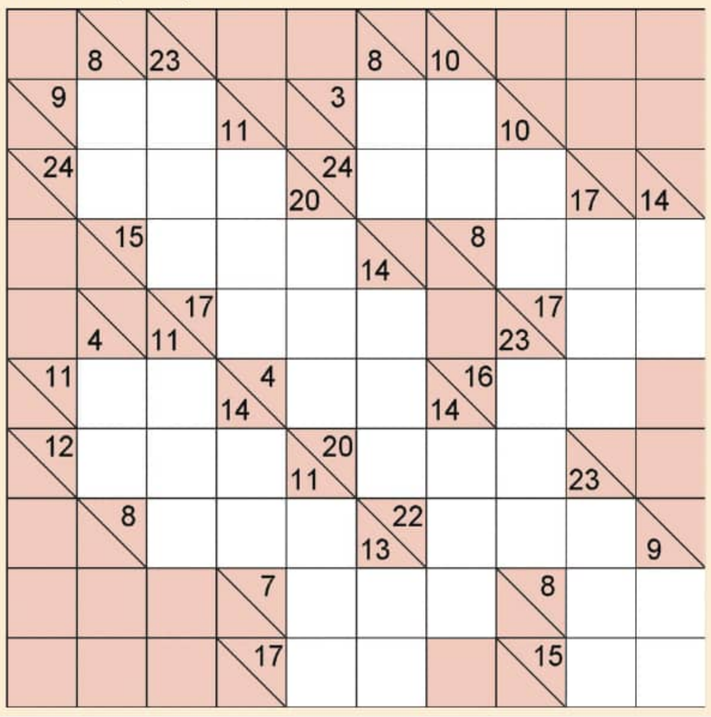
Kakuro

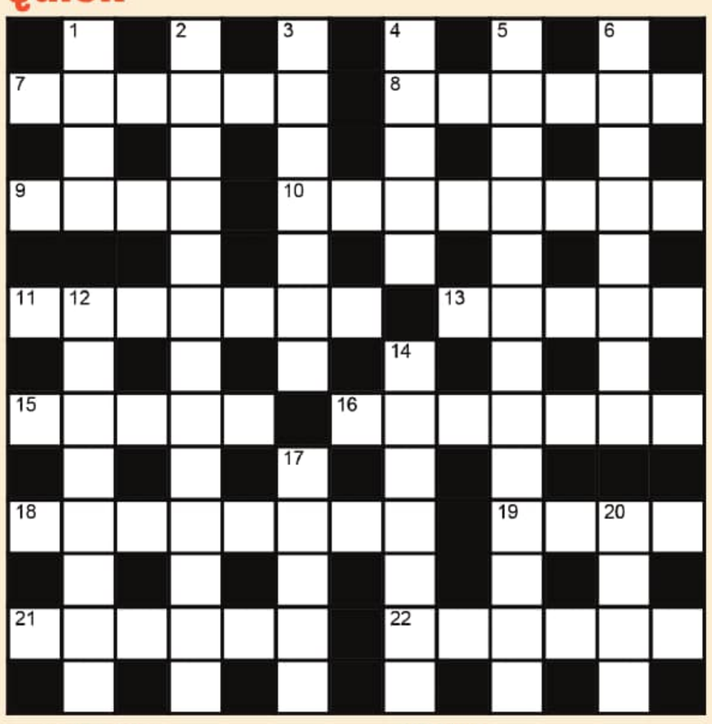
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Decorated (4,2)
8 Appalled (6)
9 Listen (4)
10 Rejection, nonacceptance (4-4)
11 Not as heavy (7)
13 Par ___ : by airmail, but in French ? (5)
15 Fatuous (5)
16 Place of refuge (7)
18 Feverish state (8)
19 Idiotic persons (4)
21 Befuddled (6)
22 Jacks in card decks (6)

DOWN

1 Small rat-like rodent (4)
2 Shameful (13)
3 In trouble, in a way? (2,1,4)
4 Military chaplain (5)
5 Trouble to be expected? (3,5,2,3)
6 Taken in toto, not partially (2,1,5)
12 Insinuation (8)
14 Movie theatre in Gandhi Nagar (7)
17 Lightheaded (5)
20 Measure of length (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS G

YRSG YMGTJ TVE ICBXG TY BQ XAGZ ITVXGE XR YTZ YRSGXABVO: RXAGCY TY BQ XAGZ ATE YRSGXABVO XR YTZ.

Linemaro

I'm sorry, I don't think we've met. I wouldn't forget so pretty a face

Mindchow

Sometimes you make choices in life and sometimes choices make you

Joke of the day

When I'm driving here I see a sign that says, CAUTION: SMALL CHILDREN PLAYING... I slow down, and then it occurs to me: I'm not afraid of small children.

Loop

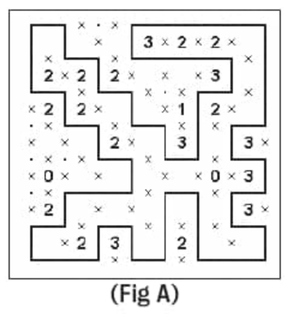
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

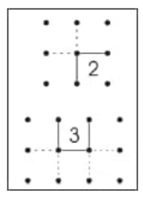
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

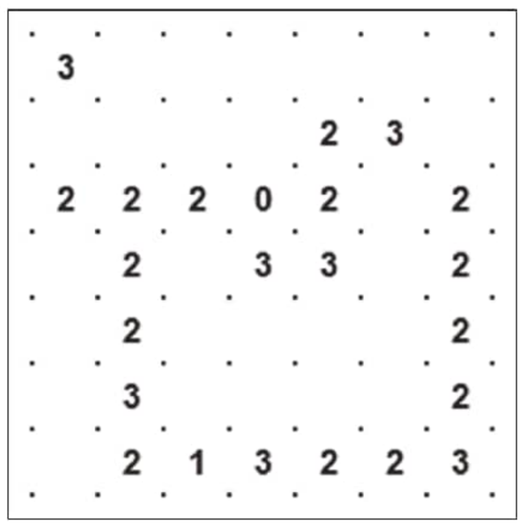
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



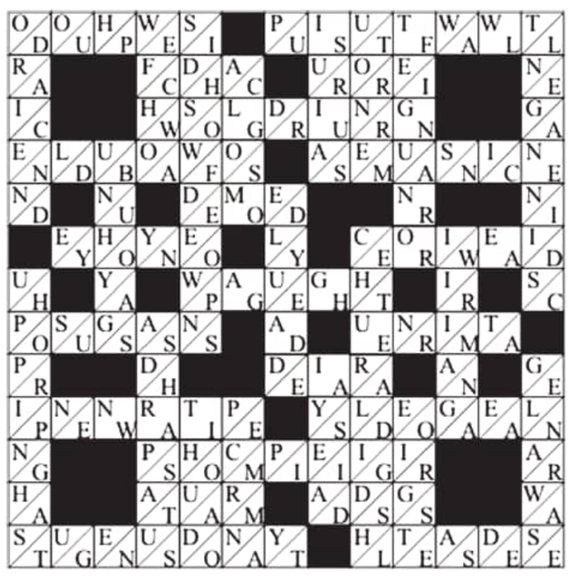
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



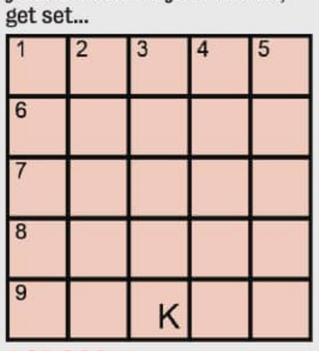
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

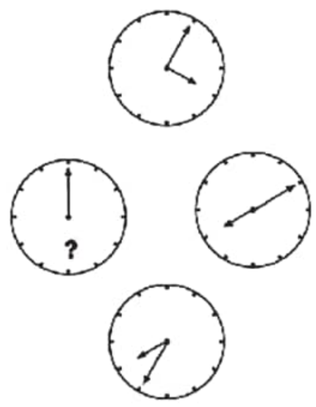
1 Heck a; 6 Or leg;
7 A Argo; 8 Cir In;
9 K seed

DOWN

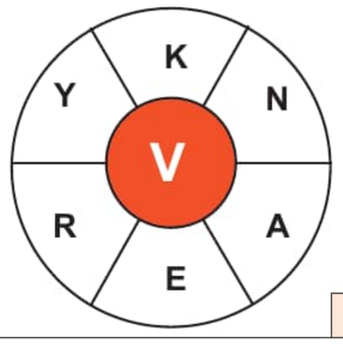
1 Or had; 2 Gage I;
3 L Cock; 4 Ree ie;
5 Snark

Mensapuzzle

Where should the missing hand point to?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

1		6			5		3	
2	7				4		8	
8				6	2		5	
	6			9				4
7				5			6	
	2		6	3				8
	4		5				1	9
	5		1			3		7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 19

3 4 5 7

Medium = 14

4 6 7 9

Hard = 13

1 2 8 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

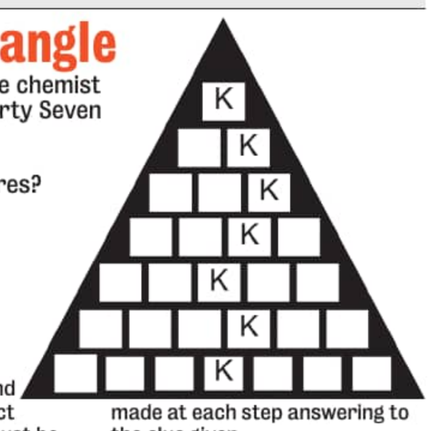
Differences: 1. Curtain is not as wide. 2. Purse is smaller. 3. Leaf is missing. 4. Hat is different. 5. Finger is moved. 6. Mouth is open.

Riddler

Fred and his wife, Nikita, were having a conversation about words while on a road trip. Fred said, "I am thinking of a devilishly tricky word that has five consonants in a row." Nikita countered with, "That's a good one, but people are lining up to find a word with five vowels in a row." What words were Fred and Nikita thinking of?

Alpha triangle

1 Potassium for the chemist
2 Machine gun _Forty Seven
3 Inquire
4 Sushi bar drink
5 ___a chance: dares?
6 Coffin
7 Deals with



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

OLIVE!
CAN'T YA HEAR ME CALLIN' YA, OLIVE OYL?
A MILLING MILES OF ROCK AN' SAND!
LOOKIN' FER OLIVE IS LIKE LOOKIN' FER A NEEDLE IN'A HAYSTACK!
12-23
popeye.com

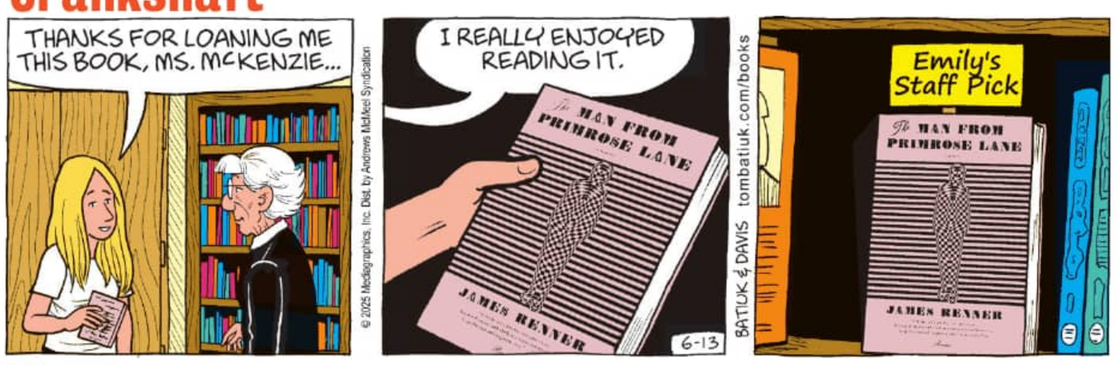
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

HAVE YOU HEARD THE STORY ABOUT FALLS BRIDGE?
I DUNNO, MAN. A PARTY AT FALLS BRIDGE DOESN'T SOUND GREAT.
YEARS AGO, A GUY NAMED MARTIN BRAVED THE BRIDGE...
MARTIN, WHERE ELSE ARE YOU GONNA MEET HOT GIRLS IF NOT A HAUNTED BRIDGE PARTY?
I'M ALREADY SCARED.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


THANKS FOR LOANING ME THIS BOOK, MS. MCKENZIE...
I REALLY ENJOYED READING IT.
THE MAN FROM PRIMROSE LANE
JAMES RENNER
6-13
tombatiuk.com/books
Emily's Staff Pick
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Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your year shines with promise. Finances strengthen through long-term investments. Career recognition grows when you lead with authenticity and dedication. Love brings joy through heartfelt connections. Luck favors those who seize spontaneous opportunities. **Tip:** Keep exploring, stepping into new environments and experiences will inspire creativity, enhance your confidence, and help you discover unexpected paths to success.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Momentum grows, channel your energy into meaningful action. Bold moves today lay the groundwork for future victories. Your courage attracts support, accelerating progress toward the personal and professional goals you value most.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Recognition for your efforts arrives. Accept praise with gratitude and confidence. Use this validation as motivation to continue pushing toward your ambitions, knowing your dedication is paving the way for success.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Adventure calls, explore new opportunities that fuel your curiosity. Travel, study, or creative exploration brings joy and ignites your enthusiasm for growth, aligning you with experiences that expand your horizons.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Slow down and savor life's comforts. Connect with loved ones or enjoy a favorite ritual. These grounding experiences bring peace, helping you recharge for upcoming challenges with renewed emotional strength.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Simplify your workload. Prioritize the most impactful tasks to reduce stress and increase efficiency. This focused approach creates balance, allowing you to accomplish more without sacrificing your well-being.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Patience proves valuable. Avoid rushing decisions, deliberate actions now create lasting success. Trust that your efforts are steadily building the strong foundation needed for future personal and professional achievements.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Conversations spark new ideas, share your thoughts with people who inspire you. These exchanges lead to exciting opportunities, expanding your creative potential and fostering collaborations that move your visions forward.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Your natural charm strengthens relationships. Use this energy to resolve lingering conflicts with diplomacy and kindness. These efforts restore harmony, creating a more supportive and loving environment in your personal circles.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Collaboration sparks progress, work with those who share your vision. These partnerships amplify your ideas, turning them into actionable plans that lead to impactful results and rewarding growth for all involved.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Embrace emotional growth, journaling or heartfelt conversations reveal insights about your needs. This self-awareness creates healthier boundaries and deeper connections, allowing you to cultivate more balanced and fulfilling relationships.

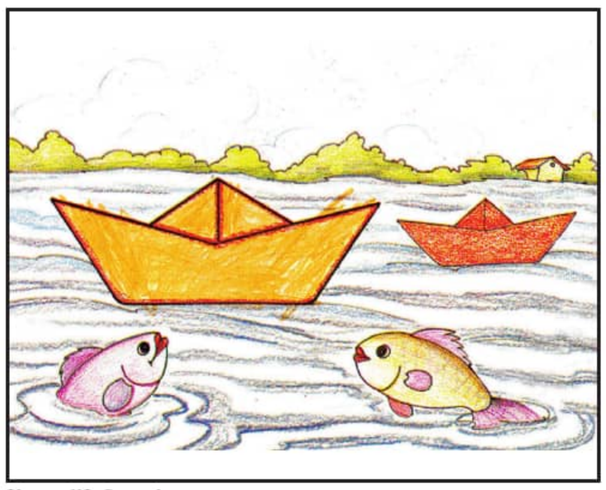
Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Transformation continues, lean into new opportunities that push you out of your comfort zone. These experiences may feel challenging, but they lead to breakthroughs that redefine your path with purpose and passion.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Quiet reflection reveals clarity. Take time to meditate or journal, strengthening your connection with your intuition. This inner guidance helps you navigate decisions with confidence and emotional wisdom.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

R Mugdha Raj, Bengaluru



Shreya KG, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(16³ / 16^¾)^⅓ / 16 =
16³ / 16 ×1/16 =
16³ / 16² = 16

BULL'S EYE
aver, envy, knave, KNAVERY, navy, nervy, rave, raven, vane, vary, very

FAST FIVE

H	A	C	E	K
O	G	L	E	R
A	G	O	R	A
R	I	C	I	N
D	E	K	E	S

QUOTE UNCODE
Some speak and write as if they wanted to say something; others as if they had something to say.

STRIKE OUT

D	U	P	E	S		P	I	T	F	A	L	L		
R		C	H	A		R	O	I		E				
I		H	O	L		D	I	N	G					
E	L	B	O	W	S		S	E	A	N	C	E		
D		U		D	O	E		R		N				
		Y	O	Y	O		L		C	O	W	E	D	
U		Y		W	A	U	G	H		R		S		
P	U	S	A	N		D		U	N	I	T			
R			D			E	A	R		N		G		
I	N	N	A	T	E		S	L	O	G	A	N		
G		P	O	M	P	E	I	I				A		
H		T	A	M		A	S	S				W		
T	U	E	S	D	A	Y		H	E	A	D	S		

QUICK

		O		E		Y		A		Y		T		
A		D		L	E	D		K	N	A	V	E	S	
		N		B		D		I		P		E		
D	E	L	I	R	I	U	M		O	A	F	S		
		U		S		G		U		T				
I	N	A	N	E		S	H	E	L	T	E	R		
		N		E		B		I		L				
L	I	G	H	T	E	R		A	V	I	O	N		
		E		R		E		H						
H	E	A	R	T	U	R	N	D	O	W	N			
	L		P		A		D		E		A			
D	O	N	E	U	P		A	G	H	A	S	T		
	V		R		U		P		T		A			

MENSA PUZZLE
To the 8. Start with the top clock face and move clockwise around the others. The sum of the numbers pointed to by the 2 hands follows the sequence 5, 10, 15, 20.

RIDDLER
Fred was thinking of witchcraft and Nikita was thinking of queueing

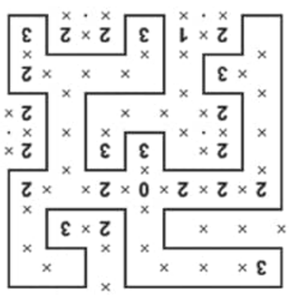
SUDOKU

6	5	8	1	4	9	3	2	7
3	4	7	5	2	8	6	1	9
9	2	1	6	3	7	5	4	8
7	8	9	4	5	1	2	6	3
4	1	3	2	7	6	8	9	5
5	6	2	8	9	3	1	7	4
8	3	4	9	6	2	7	5	1
2	7	5	3	1	4	9	8	6
1	9	6	7	8	5	4	3	2

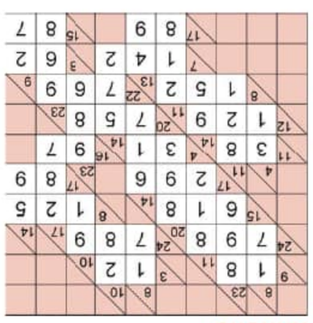
ALPHA TRIANGLE
K, AK, Ask, Sake, Takes, Gasket, Tackles.

GO FIGURE
5 + 7 + 4 + 3 = 19
Easy
Medium
7 + 9 – 6 + 4 = 14
Hard
7 + 8 – 2 x 1 = 13

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Oscar entry
Hindi film 'Homebound' named India's official entry for Oscars

Directorial bash

Aryan Khan made his Bollywood directorial debut on Thursday, with the launch of his web series 'The Ba***ds of Bollywood'. The star-kid had a glitzy red-carpet premiere that saw some of the biggest names in the film industry attending the event.

Aryan Khan's Then and Now photo

Besides the star-studded guest list, the premiere also served as a reunion of sorts as Aryan reportedly extended invitations to his school friends.

A viral photo shows the hunk posing with a bunch of friends, all suited up and dressed to the nines as they took a photo together. Interestingly, the click made for the perfect then-and-now moment as one of the guests shared a photo from their primary school days with Aryan and captioned it as, "Same smiles, different decades." The photo collage saw Aryan in his school uniform, smiling away as he sat beside his teacher for a class photo. As soon as the click went viral, fans were left mighty impressed by the star-kid's thoughtful gesture towards his school buddies.

—ETimes

ALL ABOUT DISCIPLINE

Kriti is particular about food and fitness

Kriti Sanon had a fantastic 2024 with successful films like Crew and Teri Baaton Mein Uljha Jiya while also launching her own production house with the film Do Patti. The actress is currently in Italy shooting for Homi Adajania's Cocktail 2. The actress is known not only for her acting chops but also her discipline for fitness.

Her trainer Karan Sawhney in an exclusive interview with ETimes in 2024 had opened up about how the actress takes care of her fitness routine even when she travels outdoors. He stated that she is extremely particular about food on set, she either travels with a

chef or sticks to a pre-decided meal, her nutrition is tightly monitored. "She's very strict—no partying, no sleeping late. She sleeps on time, wakes up early in the morning, shoots through the day, trains, eats dinner, and sleeps," he revealed.

The structured schedule not only keeps her physically fit but also sharpens her focus as one shoots in all kinds of locations and weather conditions. Her trainer also added Kriti has turned her routine into a lifestyle, making it easier for her body to adapt no matter where she is shooting. "It requires a lot of energy because you don't eat that much, but you're continuously working. Since it's now a routine, it helps her in what she does," he said. Karan also revealed that when it comes to cheat meals , Kriti prefers to sticking to her Indian roots. "She has a desi palate. She loves Indian food.

—ETimes

Zubeen Garg: November 18, 1972-September 19, 2025

Assam's musical icon who gave voice to varied genres of songs

Strumming the guitar and belting out one song after another in his inimitable style, Assam's Zubeen Garg had mesmerized youth and elders alike for nearly three decades with his songs and films, which had a universal appeal.

Singer, music composer, film director, and actor Zubeen is credited with singing in over 40 languages and dialects. Still, it was the song 'Ya Ali' from the movie Gangster that brought him fame across the country and earned him the best playback singer at the Global Indian Film Awards (GIFA) in 2006. The 52-year-old singer, who began singing from the age of three, was an icon for several generations of children and youth who grew up singing or humming his songs.

Be it popular Assamese or western, folk or classical-based songs, Garg gave voice to varied genres of music and excelled in all, with most later-year singers emulating his style of music and singing.

Garg was also never shy of expressing his views on political and social issues. A large number of Zubeen Garg fan clubs have been set up over the years in every nook and cranny of Assam.

Garg began his professional music career with his debut Assamese album 'Anamika', which was released in November 1992 and still remains on the popularity charts.

His first recorded songs were "Tumi Junu Pariba Hun" and "Tumi Junaki Hubakh" for the album 'Ritu' in 1993.

—PTI

A woman & six lewd characters

Sunil Kumar VA has made his debut as a director with a bang. Known for his work as an associate director for Gajarama, Kumar deserves a pat on the back for superb use of a non-linear narrative in his first film as director. He has proved that big-budget or expensive sets and highly acclaimed actors are not required to make a good movie that connects with audiences. Unfortunately, some of the scenes are not for family audiences, especially children and adolescents. The specialty of the director is that a major portion of the movie is made at two locations – a police station and a lodge.

The movie begins with police receiving information about the murder of Devika (Sangeetha Bhat) at a lodge in Kalasipalya. Police nab the suspects including Kamal (Sachin Cheluvarayaswamy), an aspiring movie director, Mamu (Ramesh Indira), a pimp, Swamy (Mithra), a fake priest. Assistant Commissioner of Police Natesh Kumar (Kishore Kumar) begins interrogation of Mamu who blames Kamal for the murder. Mamu narrates how Devika agreed to become a sex worker and how Kamal visited her seven times on the day she was murdered. However, Kamal tells the ACP that he failed in not only making a successful movie but also to end his life by suicide. He says that he visited Devika to get relief from his depression by telling her his pathetic story. You have to watch the movie to know whether or not the ACP believes Kamal's version and also to know who killed Devika.

KAMAL SRIDEVI
3.5 RATING ★★★½☆
- **DIRECTOR** Sunil Kumar VA
- **ACTORS** Sachin Cheluvarayaswamy, Sangeetha Bhat, Kishore Kumar, Akshita Bopaiah, Ramesh Indira
- **CERTIFICATION** A
- **Duration** 122 minutes

As far as performances of the actors are concerned, Sachin Cheluvarayaswamy looks sober and comfortable throughout the movie, except in a scene where he attacks the murderer in the police station. He has faithfully followed the script without indulging in histrionics. Sangeetha Bhat is at her best. As a hapless woman, affectionate mother and good human being, she walks away with all honours for her sterling performance. This movie has given her the right opportunity to showcase her acting skills. Ramesh Indira also deserved appreciation for his natural acting. Kishore Kumar is convincing as a ruthless cop. Mithra and MS Umesh provide good support. Akshita Bopaiah has acted well.

The movie is worth a watch but only for adults.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

When Reese got an 'ego check'

Hollywood star Reese Witherspoon has spoken about her exit from the 2014 thriller film "Gone Girl," which eventually went to actress Rosamund Pike.

Witherspoon opened up about the film while it was in development. At the time, Witherspoon had been attached to star in the adaptation as Amy Elliott Dunne, receiving approval from author Gillian Flynn and shepherding the project through her production company.

However, once director David Fincher came aboard, he decided against casting her in the role, reports variety.com.

"David sat me down — and this is not on David — but David's like, 'You're totally wrong for this part, and I'm not putting you in it,'" Reese said on the "Las Culturistas" podcast.

She added: "I had all these conversations with the writer Gillian Flynn, and she was like, 'No, I'd really like you to do it.' … But (Fincher) was like, 'You're wrong.'"The thriller, which also stars Ben Affleck, proved a breakthrough for Pike, who scored her first Academy Award nomination for the film, landing a nod for best actress.

—IANS